

December 16, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia: Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise on behalf of myself, Congressman **ROB WITTMAN** and Congressman **GLENN NYE** to call attention to a group of young students from Hampton, Virginia, who have once again distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

For the second consecutive year, the Phoebus High School Phantoms football team had a remarkable season. On December 12, the Phoebus High School Phantoms won their fifth state football championship this decade, defeating Stone Bridge High School of Ashburn 15-10, at Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Taking over from coach Bill Dee, new head coach Stan Sexton led the Phantoms another 15-0 season. Their winning streak now stands at 30 wins. No other Group AAA school has won back-to-back championships since Phoebus did it in 2001 and 2002; now Phoebus has done it again. This has truly been Phoebus' decade in football, having won five state championships this decade with a record of 120-12 (.909). No other AAA school has won more than 102 games. This latest championship is just another accolade for the City of Hampton's youngest school, founded in 1975.

Phoebus High's legacy of excellence is not limited to just the field of athletics. Under the Direction of Principal Robert Johnson, the Phoebus faculty seeks to inspire students to strive for excellence and achievement in the classroom, in their extracurricular activities and in their communities. Phoebus has two innovative programs that expand the learning experience outside of the traditional classroom. Phoebus hosts the Hampton School Division's Center for High Technology. This magnet career academy includes classes in pre-engineering, design and 2 drafting, and Cisco network administration, preparing students for college classes and jobs in the technology sector. Phoebus is also home to the Blue Phantom Inn. This student-run restaurant gives students an opportunity to develop their culinary arts skills, and was nationally recognized in Southern Living magazine.

The Phantom's excellence in football is also characteristic of the quality of athletics in the Peninsula District of Virginia. Phoebus High School's championship this year marked the 11th time in the last fifteen years that a Peninsula District team has won a state title in football. To quote from our hometown newspaper, the Daily Press, "High school football on the Peninsula is championship football." We would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to Coach Stan Sexton, his coaching staff and all of the players on the Phoebus High School Phantoms, the 2008 and 2009 Group AAA Division 5 Virginia High School League state football champions.